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February 24, 2023

The Honourable Catrina Braid
Ontario Superior Court of Justice
85 Frederick Street
Kitchener, ON N2H 0A7

Dear Justice Braid:

I am pleased to see that OJEN's fifth annual "Braiding Diversity into Justice" event has returned, in-person, to the Kitchener Courthouse on Tuesday, March 7, 2023. As I am unable to attend, I would appreciate you sharing, on my behalf, this message with the participants of the event.

Dear Participants:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to "Braiding Diversity into Justice", an event first held on November 6, 2018, created by the Ontario Justice Education Network and its Kitchener-Waterloo Committee. The judges, lawyers and justice sector leaders before you today have come together to provide you an opportunity to explore and cultivate your interest in a career in the legal field. Today is an important opportunity for all of you who represent diverse perspectives to participate in and contribute to an equitable and modern justice system. The Ontario Superior Court of Justice considers access to justice a top priority. This means providing timely, effective and meaningful justice services to the diverse populations the justice system serves. That is why your participation is so important today.

The Executive of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice recognizes the importance of promoting awareness, inclusivity and diversity and prioritizes on-going education for the judiciary to better understand the public they serve. This past year, for example, in recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, 2022, judges of our Court attended a valuable special presentation by Sara Mainville, partner at JFK Law LLP on Truth, Reconciliation and Freedom.

Continuing education can break down barriers and increase awareness and understanding in those who participate.

I would like to thank the legal professionals for their expertise and contributions today, and to the participants, may you discover new opportunities to learn and be inspired throughout the day.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Morawetz", with a large, stylized initial "G" at the beginning.

Geoffrey B. Morawetz
Chief Justice.